Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	1,548.5	111,277	334,745	446,022
Total Maintenance Level	1,557.6	120,449	332,630	453,079
Difference	9.1	9,172	(2,115)	7,057
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.6%	8.2%	(0.6)%	1.6%
Performance Changes				
Move Federal Authority to Capital			(5,000)	(5,000)
Reduce Biosolids Program Funding			(400)	(400)
Continued Pollution Control Fund Shift		(5,000)	5,000	
Stabilize Oil Spill Prevention Account				
Continued Watershed Planning Reduction	(1.0)	(1,000)		(1,000)
Continued Flood Control Grant Reduction			(2,000)	(2,000)
Continued Litter Pickup Reduction	(2.0)		(4,000)	(4,000)
Reduce Emergency Water Account			(120)	(120)
Natural Resources Consolidation #	6.6	475	1,247	1,722
Reduce Air Pollution Control Account			(946)	(946)
Puget Sound Corps #	6.3	644		644
Reduce Grass Seed Account			(11)	(11)
Agricultural Burning Fees	1.5		276	276
New Air Emission Source Review Fees	.8		200	200
Implementing the Ban on Bisphenol A	.3		90	90
Brake Friction Material Ban	1.4		288	288
Complying With Air Quality Standards	5.8		1,504	1,504
Pre-Payment Agreement Authority	2.3		588	588
Teck Cominco Litigation Support			500	500
Keeping Toxins Out of Puget Sound	5.8		1,996	1,996
Environmental Purchasing #			200	200
Mercury-Containing Lights	1.3		2,170	2,170
Protecting Washington Shorelines	3.1		3,558	3,558
Water Smart Washington *		(5,556)	5,556	
Water Quality Permit Fee Revision			755	755
Completed Reclaimed Water Work Reductions	(2.3)	(570)		(570)
Local Shoreline Grants Fund Shift		(4,500)	4,500	
Reducing Fee-Supported Air Programs	(2.2)	(491)		(491)
Continued Water Rights Reduction	(11.7)	(2,880)		(2,880)
Completed Climate Task Reduction	(.8)	(407)		(407)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(1,090)	(2,771)	(3,861)
State Data Center Rate Increase		294	553	847
Subtotal	15.3	(20,081)	13,733	(6,348)
Total Proposed Budget	1,572.9	100,368	346,363	446,731

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Difference	24.4	(10,909)	11,618	709
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.6%	(9.8)%	3.5%	0.2%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Clarify Water Rights	13.1	2,361		2,361
Control Stormwater Pollution	57.4	1,438	13,600	15,038
Restore the Air, Soil, and Water Contaminated from Past Activities at Hanford	14.7	18	4,349	4,367
Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants	7.8	1,503	788	2,291
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions	20.0	3,901	500	4,401
Clean Up Polluted Waters	36.3	547	8,301	8,848
Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action	18.8		4,358	4,358
Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Construction Projects	11.5	1,607	735	2,342
Clean Up and Remove Large, Complex, Contaminated Facilities throughout Hanford	8.6	18	1,534	1,552
Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste	25.2		5,859	5,859
Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control	47.4	2,424	10,448	12,872
Prevent Point Source Water Pollution	91.6	(233)	19,298	19,065
Improve Environmental Compliance at State's Largest Industrial Facilities	16.7	149	3,919	4,068
Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands	25.9	3,936	8,663	12,599
Prevent and Pick Up Litter	8.5		8,586	8,586
Ensure Dam Safety	12.9	2,743	67	2,810
Assess, Set, and Enhance Instream Flows	18.5	3,929	283	4,212
Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments	35.1	3,442	11,391	14,833
Fund Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste	16.0		5,994	5,994
Treat and Dispose of Hanford's High-Level Radioactive Tank Waste	23.7	18	4,195	4,213
Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment	2.9		319	319
Clean up the Most Contaminated Sites First (Upland and Aquatic)	124.5		39,592	39,592
Rapidly Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills	32.7		14,942	14,942
Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke	14.4	1,107	1,422	2,529
Ensure the Safe Management of Radioactive Mixed Waste at Hanford	13.5	18	3,041	3,059
Improve Community Access to Hazardous Substance and Waste Information	24.5		4,492	4,492
Prevent Oil Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities	23.5		6,342	6,342
Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases	22.5		4,490	4,490
Manage Solid Waste Safely	20.9		5,022	5,022

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making	4.4	356	680	1,036
Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance	39.2	3,269	22,056	25,325
Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution	22.1	165	5,524	5,689
Promote Compliance with Water Laws	13.1	2,339		2,339
Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management	25.7		8,001	8,001
Manage Water Rights	61.4	5,333	7,881	13,214
Prevent Unhealthy Air and Violations of Air Quality Standards	20.4	5,114	5,743	10,857
Prepare for Aggressive Response to Oil and Hazardous Material Incidents	11.8		2,660	2,660
Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources	17.8	648	2,555	3,203
Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide	43.5	4,957	9,447	14,404
Ensure Safe Tank Operations, Storage of Tank Wastes, & Closure of the Waste Storage Tanks at Hanford	14.6	18	2,630	2,648
Prepare and Respond to Drought			588	588
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning and Implementation	11.3	10,257	10	10,267
Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review	5.7	1,095	108	1,203
Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions	23.2	4,968	3,395	8,363
Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve	17.8	1,479	4,622	6,101
Provide Water Resources Data and Information	27.7	6,740	761	7,501
Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards	7.4	10	2,391	2,401
Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste and the Use of Toxic Substances through Technical Assistanc	23.2		5,344	5,344
Regulate Well Construction	8.4		1,747	1,747
Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data	6.0	1,440		1,440
Restore Public Natural Resources Damaged by Oil Spills	2.2		2,096	2,096
Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps Administration	40.9 206.1	1,793 13,146	5,798 33,790	7,591 46,936
Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites	23.5		5,329	5,329
Provide Streamlined Project Permitting for Transportation Projects	.7	79	46	125
Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses	28.6	1,854	1,781	3,635
Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources	7.6	2,348		2,348
Provide Regulatory Assistance for Significant Projects and Small Businesses	3.8	269	4,413	4,682
Support Water Use Efficiency	4.0	559	430	989
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	8.9	2,673	658	3,331
Reduce Toxic Chemicals in Products and Promote Safer Alternatives	15.3		5,499	5,499
Eliminate Waste and Promote Material Reuse	30.6	58	6,524	6,582

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Consolidation	7.2	475	1,326	1,801
Total Proposed Budget	1,572.9	100,368	346,363	446,731

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Move Federal Authority to Capital
Federal expenditure authority is removed from the operating budget on an ongoing basis for federal grants related to the Shorelands Program that are capital in nature. In the future, expenditure authority for these grants will be addressed in the capital budget. (General Fund-Federal)

Reduce Biosolids Program Funding
Anticipated revenue into the Biosolids Permit Account will not be sufficient to support the 2011-13 biennium carryforward level of expenditure authority. Therefore, funding is reduced by $400,000 in Fiscal Year 2012 to balance the account and better equalize per-fiscal year spending over the long term. This will result in less capacity in the Department of Ecology's biosolids regulatory program, which promotes the safe and appropriate use of biosolids, a beneficial byproduct of wastewater treatment. (Biosolids Permit Account-State)

Continued Pollution Control Fund Shift
Continuing a budget change initiated in the 2010 supplemental operating budget, the General Fund-State portion of activities that support cleaning up polluted waters, controlling stormwater pollution, and preventing point source and non-point source pollution is shifted, on a one-time basis, to the State Toxics Control Account. (General Fund-State, State Toxics Control Account-State)

Stabilize Oil Spill Prevention Account
Billions of gallons of oil are transported into and through Washington state each year, posing a risk for damage from spills. The Department of Ecology provides spill prevention and preparedness services to protect Puget Sound, the outer coast, the Columbia River and other inland waters from such incidents. These activities receive substantial funding from the Oil Spill Prevention Account. Tax revenue into this account fluctuates greatly, resulting in periodic, substantial shortfalls that have been addressed over the years through stop-gap budget measures. The most recent shortfall was addressed by depositing $6.5 million General Fund-State into the account in Fiscal Year 2009 and reducing the Department's 2009-11 spills program funding by $1.9 million in order to balance the account. Another shortfall is predicted to occur during the 2011-13 biennium. In order to stabilize long-term program funding, expenditure authority for oil spill prevention and response activities is shifted on an ongoing basis from the Oil Spill Prevention Account to the State Toxics Control Account. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Oil Spill Prevention Account-State)

Continued Watershed Planning Reduction
Funding and FTE staff are reduced on an ongoing basis for watershed planning technical assistance and grants to local governments, continuing a reduction begun during Fiscal Year 2011.

Continued Flood Control Grant Reduction
Ecology administers the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, providing grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management planning. Due to the General Fund-State revenue shortfall, the $2.0 million Flood Control Assistance Account Program reduction initiated during the 2009-11 biennium is continued in the 2011-13 biennium. (Flood Control Assistance Account-State)

Continued Litter Pickup Reduction
The Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account funds litter prevention and pickup activity within the Department of Ecology. Funding and FTE staff for this activity are reduced on a one-time basis, continuing $4.0 million of a $6.0 million reduction begun during the 2009-11 biennium. Remaining resources will allow the agency to operate a substantially scaled-back litter pickup program. (Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account-State)

Reduce Emergency Water Account
Expenditure authority in the State Emergency Water Projects Revolving Account is reduced on an ongoing basis to match available revenue. This will result in less capacity for monitoring, mitigation, and planning associated with drought response. (State Emergency Water Projects Revolving Account-State)

Natural Resources Consolidation #
Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are increased on an ongoing basis to reflect transfer of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency, and the Department of Health's reclaimed water program to the Department of Ecology, effective July 1, 2012. In addition, Fiscal Year 2013 funding and 1.0 FTE staff are reduced permanently to reflect the proposed transfer of Ecology's low-level radioactive waste regulatory program to the Department of Health. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local, Various Other Funds)

Reduce Air Pollution Control Account
Expenditure authority is reduced on a one-time basis to reflect a delay in greenhouse gas reporting. (Air Pollution Control Account-State)

Puget Sound Corps #
Legislation is proposed to consolidate the administration of the Department of Natural Resources' Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) into the Department of Ecology's WCC. Funding and staff are reduced on an ongoing basis to reflect transfer of the WCC, effective July 1, 2012.

Reduce Grass Seed Account
Expenditure authority is reduced on an ongoing basis to match anticipated fund balance in the Special Grass Seed Burning Research Account. This reduction will result in less capacity to research alternatives to grass seed burning. (Special Grass Seed Burning Research Account-State)

Agricultural Burning Fees
Burning post-harvest residue is a common agricultural practice regulated by the Department of Ecology in order to protect the public from the adverse health effects of the resulting smoke. Chapter 70, Laws of 2010 increased the statutory cap on the agricultural burning permit fee, and fee levels for field and pile burning will increase starting January 1, 2011. Funding and FTE staff are increased on an ongoing basis to match expected fee revenue. A separate budget adjustment reduces General Fund-State support for this program. (Air Pollution Control Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

New Air Emission Source Review Fees

New or modified sources of air pollution are required to receive permits from the Department of Ecology (Ecology) prior to construction and operation in order to ensure compliance with air quality standards and minimize public health impacts. The 2009-11 operating budget bill directed Ecology to increase fees to recover the costs of this program; therefore, funding and FTE staff are increased on an ongoing basis to match anticipated fee revenue. A separate budget adjustment reduces General Fund-State support for this program. (Air Pollution Control Account-State)

Implementing the Ban on Bisphenol A

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical used in some plastic bottles and on the inside coating of cans. Exposure to BPA has been identified as a public health issue for fetuses, infants and children. Chapter 140, Laws of 2010 placed a ban on BPA use in baby bottles, sippy cups and sport bottles, effective July 1, 2011. Ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided for the Department of Ecology to implement bill provisions for manufacturer notification, complaint investigation, and enforcement. (State Toxics Control Account-State).

Brake Friction Material Ban

Motor vehicle brakes contain friction material that releases copper, asbestiform fibers, cadmium, lead, mercury, and their compounds during use. Stormwater carries these materials into streams, rivers, Puget Sound, and other Washington waters where they are toxic to many aquatic organisms, including salmon. Chapter 147, Laws of 2010 instituted a phased ban on certain brake friction material concentrations, and directed the Department of Ecology to initiate the first phase of a brake friction material ban, including developing pad-content certification criteria by December 2012, receiving manufacturer pad-content data triennially beginning January 2013, and documenting baseline levels of certain chemicals used in brake pads by July 2013. One-time funding and FTE staff are provided to carry out these tasks. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Complying With Air Quality Standards

A number of areas in Washington will violate new, tougher national air quality standards. Federal law requires communities that violate the standards to bring down air pollution levels. Failure to meet these federal Clean Air Act requirements subjects the state and communities to severe financial penalties and sanctions, and the negative public health implication of continued exposure to toxic contaminants. During the 2011-13 biennium, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to adopt tougher air quality standards. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) anticipates several areas of the state will be at risk for violating the new standards, including the greater Puget Sound area, Yakima, Darrington, and possibly Spokane and Clark counties. Ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided for Ecology to identify sources that contribute to each community's high pollution levels, and develop and implement strategies that will bring these areas back into compliance with federal law. (General Fund-Federal, State Toxics Control Account-State)

Pre-Payment Agreement Authority

The state Model Toxics Control Act provides for funding arrangements, known as pre-payment agreements, whereby willing parties with toxic sites provide funding to the Department of Ecology to get the toxic sites cleaned up on a priority basis. Ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided for Ecology to negotiate and carry out pre-payment agreements that materialize in the 2011-13 biennium and beyond. These costs will be paid for by the parties who request services. (State Toxics Control Account-Private/Local)

Teck Cominco Litigation Support

One-time funding is provided for continuing Attorney General services and expert-witness costs associated with the Pakootas et al. v. Teck Cominco, Ltd., case concerning a toxic cleanup site on the Upper Columbia River. The Department of Ecology and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are co-plaintiffs in this litigation. It addresses the liability under federal law for cleanup and natural resource restoration costs at a smelter complex located in British Columbia, Canada. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Keeping Toxins Out of Puget Sound
Hazardous waste and toxic substances, when mismanaged, can contaminate land, air, and water. Approximately 70 percent of medium- and large-volume hazardous waste generators are located within the Puget Sound drainage area. Inspection data show a worsening rate of serious environmental threats found during inspections: 57 percent today, compared to 27 percent ten years ago. In order to reduce toxic releases to stormwater, ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided to increase the inspection rate for the highest-risk businesses in the Puget Sound region. In addition, thousands of businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste are exempt from hazardous waste and stormwater regulation. Nevertheless, improper handling of wastes and other products by these entities can result in stormwater and groundwater contamination. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) partners with local governments to help businesses correct practices related to hazardous waste management, spill prevention, stormwater pollution, and other environmental rules. Ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided to manage Ecology's portion of these activities. Ongoing grant funding is provided from the Local Toxics Control Account to support local government staff to conduct hazardous waste and stormwater technical assistance visits. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Environmental Purchasing #
Under current law, government purchases of goods and services are based on the lowest-cost, responsive bid. The Department of Ecology and Department of General Administration will propose agency request legislation to add environmental impacts to the criteria for goods and services purchasing decisions. Ongoing funding is provided to obtain expert consultant services to advise the state as it develops and applies environmentally-friendly policies for state purchasing of goods and services. The Department of Ecology has secured grant funding for these activities for the 2011-13 biennium. Funding in ensuing biennia will be provided from the State Toxics Control Account. (General Fund-Private/Local)

Mercury-Containing Lights
Mercury is a persistent, bioaccumulative toxin that can damage the central nervous and cardiovascular systems in humans. Chapter 130, Laws of 2010 established a recycling program for mercury-containing lights, as well as a program for reducing releases to the environment from bulk mercury. Ongoing funding from the Product Stewardship Programs Account and full-time equivalent staff are provided for such tasks as establishing rules for mercury-light recycling plans and collection systems, and compiling a database of private sector, recycling program implementers. Ongoing funding from the State Toxics Control Account and FTE staff are also provided for enforcement of a June 2012 ban on the sale of bulk mercury. (Product Stewardship Programs Account-Nonappropriated, State Toxics Control Account-State)

Protecting Washington Shorelines
Pursuant to a negotiated legal settlement in 2003, Ecology and local governments are in the process of updating local shoreline master programs, many of which have not been updated in over 25 years. Base operating funding is insufficient to complete shoreline master program updates in time to meet statutory and legal settlement deadlines. The Department is provided $3.6 million and 3.1 FTE staff to speed up completion of shoreline master program updates during the 2011-13 biennium. During the 2013-15 biennium, the funding level will reduce to $2.9 million as the last remaining jurisdictions will complete their shoreline updates. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Water Smart Washington *
Pursuant to agency request legislation establishing cost recovery fees for water rights processing, General Fund-State expenditure authority for the Department of Ecology's water rights processing activity and associated administration costs is permanently shifted to an existing dedicated account, effective July 1, 2012. Base General Fund-State funding remaining in the first fiscal year of the 2011-13 biennium is dedicated to transition-related activities, such as completion of open applications, policy reform, process efficiency and customer service improvements, and development of a cost-reimbursement model. (General Fund-State, Water Rights Processing Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Water Quality Permit Fee Revision

The Department of Ecology is designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the state agency responsible for implementing federal and state water pollution control laws and regulations. Wastewater and stormwater discharges are regulated primarily by wastewater discharge permits, which stipulate specific limits and conditions of allowable discharge. RCW 90.48.465 requires that permit fee revenue cover the cost of the permit program and that the fee schedule be adjusted biennially. Ecology intends to increase fees by the fiscal growth factor during 2011-13, while reducing cost subsidies among categories of fee payers. Expenditure authority is increased on an ongoing basis to match anticipated revenue from these fee increases. (Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Completed Reclaimed Water Work Reductions

Funding and FTE staff are eliminated to reflect completion of one-time tasks required by reclaimed water legislation enacted during the 2006 and 2007 legislative sessions.

Local Shoreline Grants Fund Shift

Base funding of $4.5 million is shifted permanently from General Fund-State to the Local Toxics Control Account for grants to local governments engaged in Shoreline Master Program updates. (General Fund-State, Local Toxics Control Account-State)

Reducing Fee-Supported Air Programs

General Fund-State support and FTE staff are reduced on an ongoing basis for three activities within the Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program: woodstove education and enforcement, agricultural burning regulation, and new air emission source review. Recent fee increases for agricultural burning and new air emission source review allow funding from dedicated accounts to be increased, thereby reducing the need for General Fund-State subsidies for these programs.

Continued Water Rights Reduction

The Department of Ecology is responsible for making decisions on applications for new water rights, and requests for changes and transfers to existing water rights. The 2009-11 operating budget included a one-time reduction to the Water Rights Processing activity. Funding and FTE staff are reduced on a one-time basis to continue the water right processing reduction into the 2011-13 biennium. The Department will continue to concentrate remaining resources in the basins where processing applications will have the greatest benefit to applicants, the environment, and the public.

Completed Climate Task Reduction

Funding and FTE staff are reduced on an ongoing basis to reflect completion of one-time tasks required by Chapter 14, Laws of 2008.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Clarify Water Rights

The agency provides support for water rights adjudication. Adjudication is fundamental to sound water management by increasing certainty regarding the validity and extent of water rights and reducing water conflicts. It is a judicial determination of existing water rights and claims, including federal, tribal, and non-tribal claims. The current focus is completing the Yakima River Basin surface water adjudication and pre-adjudication work in the Spokane area and Colville watershed.

Control Stormwater Pollution
The agency prepares tools, provides assistance, and offers compliance strategies to control the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from development and industrial activities. The agency currently provides training and assistance to communities and industries on stormwater manuals and the Western Washington hydrology model. The agency works with local governments and other stakeholders to implement a municipal stormwater program and permitting system.

Restore the Air, Soil, and Water Contaminated from Past Activities at Hanford
The agency protects public health and natural resources by working to restore the public use of air, soil, and water at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation by cleaning up contaminated sites from past activities. Radioactive and hazardous contaminants are removed, residual contaminants are contained and monitored, and mitigation of natural resource damage on Hanford occurs.

Reduce Risk from Toxic Air Pollutants
No ambient standards, and few emission limits, have been established for the hundreds of toxic chemicals (totaling millions of pounds) emitted into the air annually in Washington. Emerging ambient assessments and toxics risk models indicate that the level and extent of airborne toxics pose significant health and environmental risks, including cancer, other serious health effects, and death. The agency has identified 11 high-risk toxic air pollutants that are prevalent in Washington. To significantly reduce potential risk to the public, the agency will complete a health assessment of agricultural burning smoke; complete a health effects analysis of diesel soot; collect and prepare annual air toxics emission inventories; operate air toxics monitoring sites; and limit toxic emissions through permit conditions for commercial facilities, combustion processes, and outdoor burning.

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Motor Vehicle Emissions
Cars, trucks, construction equipment, locomotives, and marine vessels are responsible for over 60 percent of Washington's air pollution. These emissions adversely affect public health, substantially increase health care costs, and increase cancer and mortality rates. Without significant emission reductions, the agency cannot ensure future attainment of federal air quality standards, avoid multi-million dollar control costs to businesses and citizens, nor reduce or prevent harmful health effects. To protect public health and the environment from motor vehicle pollution, the agency implements a vehicle emission check program of nearly 2 million cars and trucks; promotes transportation alternatives and cleaner motor vehicles and fuels through voluntary, regulatory, and incentive programs; and retrofits school buses with better emission controls.

Clean Up Polluted Waters
The federal Clean Water Act requires the agency to develop water quality standards and to identify water bodies that fail to meet those standards. The agency does this by reviewing thousands of water quality data samples and publishing an integrated water quality assessment report. This report lists the water bodies that do not meet standards. The agency then works with local interests to prepare water quality improvement reports to reduce pollution, establish conditions in discharge permits and nonpoint-source management plans, and monitor the effectiveness of the improvement report.

Prevent Hazardous Waste Pollution Through Permitting, Closure, and Corrective Action
Facilities that treat, store, and/or dispose of dangerous wastes are required to obtain a permit to ensure that their design, construction, maintenance, and operating procedures protect public health and the environment. Washington currently has 15 active facilities that are either in "interim status" or have a final permit. These facilities are required to have closure plans to effectively deal with the end of their waste management activities. Environmental contamination found at any time before closure requires a corrective action clean-up plan. The agency is currently working on 27 high-priority corrective action clean-up sites.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Protect Water Quality by Reviewing and Conditioning Construction Projects

The Department of Ecology issues water quality certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determinations for water-related construction projects. Staff provide early review on projects whenever possible (e.g., through State Environmental Policy Act review and pre-application meetings) and provide project guidance and technical assistance through phone calls, e-mails, site visits, and workshops. Projects are approved, denied, or conditioned to protect water quality, sediment quality, and fish and shellfish habitat. This activity allows the state to actively participate in federal permitting activities to ensure that state interests are adequately represented and considered.

Clean Up and Remove Large, Complex, Contaminated Facilities throughout Hanford

The agency oversees the decommissioning of the large, complex, and high-risk facilities throughout the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, including nuclear reactors and chemical processing facilities used for nuclear weapons material production. Transition of these facilities to safe and stable conditions requires coordination of multiple regulatory and technical requirements. The agency is also responsible for regulatory oversight of waste management activities at four facilities not under the management of the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy Northwest, AREVA, Perma-Fix Northwest, and the U.S. Navy's Puget Sound Naval Shipyard).

Increase Compliance and Act on Environmental Threats from Hazardous Waste

The agency annually conducts formal compliance enforcement inspections at large and medium quantity generators and hazardous waste management facilities to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. A credible, formal enforcement capability is essential to preserving the effectiveness of technical assistance and informal enforcement efforts. While staff undertake formal enforcement infrequently, repeated refusal or inability of a facility to correct violations and come into compliance with the regulations will escalate to formal enforcement actions.

Conduct Environmental Studies for Pollution Source Identification and Control

The agency conducts pollution studies to address known or suspected problems at individual sites or across regional areas. These studies support agency efforts under the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, and Model Toxics Control Act. The directed studies range from water quality sampling, such as for bacteria or dissolved oxygen, to more complex analyses for toxic chemicals, such as dioxins in fish tissues or pesticides in groundwater. Many of the studies are water clean-up studies, which calculate the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of a pollutant a water body can absorb without causing violations of water quality standards. As part of a lawsuit settlement, the agency entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency that requires the agency to develop nearly 1,500 TMDLs by 2013. Study results are published in scientific reports used for regulatory decision-making, policy development, and environmental health protection.

Prevent Point Source Water Pollution

The agency protects Washington's water by regulating point source discharges of pollutants to surface and ground waters. This is done with a wastewater permit program for sewage treatment plants and an industrial discharge program for other industries. A permit is a rigorous set of limits, monitoring requirements, or management practices, usually specific to a discharge, which is designed to ensure that a facility can meet treatment standards and water quality limits. The permit is followed by regular inspections and site visits. Technical assistance and follow-up on permit violations also are provided through various means.

Improve Environmental Compliance at State's Largest Industrial Facilities

The Department of Ecology provides a single point of contact for petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, and aluminum smelters. Rather than having multiple inspectors work on the many environmental issues at a facility, one engineer provides coverage for all media. This means more balanced regulation for these major industries. (Authorizing Laws: RCW 70.94, Washington Clean Air Act; RCW 90.48, Water Pollution Control Act; RCW 70.105, Hazardous Waste Management Act; RCW 70.95C, Waste Reduction; RCW 70.95, Solid Waste Management Act; and RCW 70.105D, Model Toxics Control Act)

Protect, Restore, and Manage Wetlands
The Department of Ecology has the lead responsibility in implementing the state Water Pollution Control Act, which requires the protection of wetlands. The agency provides technical assistance to local governments, helping them implement requirements in the Shoreline Management and Growth Management acts. Staff also provide technical assistance to non-government entities on wetlands conservation and stewardship programs. The agency provides leadership on wetlands issues, coordinating statewide policy issues, and developing new approaches for managing and restoring wetlands. Properly functioning wetlands protect water quality, reduce flooding, provide aquifer recharge for drinking water and other uses, and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Prevent and Pick Up Litter
Litter control efforts include a litter prevention campaign, Ecology Youth Corps litter pick-up crews, Community Litter Cleanup contracts, and coordination with other state and local efforts to maximize litter pick-up. Litter prevention and pick-up helps to keep Washington green, supports tourism, and provides employment opportunities to youth. (Authorizing Law: RCW 70.93 - Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Model Control Act)

Ensure Dam Safety
This activity protects life, property, and the environment by overseeing the safety of Washington's dams. This includes inspecting the structural integrity and flood and earthquake safety of existing state dams not managed by the federal government; approving and inspecting new dam construction and repairs; and taking compliance and emergency actions.

Assess, Set, and Enhance Instream Flows
The agency evaluates and sets instream flows that are fundamental to water resources management. Instream flows are used to determine how much water needs to remain in streams to meet environmental needs, how much can be allocated, and when to regulate junior water users based on flow levels. The agency acquires water and uses other management techniques to restore and protect flows, while meeting out-of-stream needs.

Protect and Manage Shorelines in Partnership with Local Governments
The Shoreline Management Act establishes a cooperative program between local and state governments, in which local governments develop and administer local Shoreline Master Programs, and the Department of Ecology provides support and oversight. The agency is involved in shoreline management in four primary ways: developing guidelines for local shoreline programs; providing technical assistance to local governments and applicants on shoreline planning and permitting activities; reviewing and approving amendments to local shoreline master programs; and reviewing permits to ensure resource protection and implementation of the law. The agency works with local governments on permit compliance by responding to public inquiries and complaints, making field visits, providing compliance-related technical assistance, and issuing notices of correction, orders, and penalties. Properly managed shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, minimize flooding and property damage, and provide land-use certainty to local landowners.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Fund Local Efforts to Clean Up Toxic Sites and Manage or Reduce Waste

The Department of Ecology protects public health and promotes resource recovery through the administration of three capital grant programs. Coordinated Prevention Grants support local government activities to protect groundwater, recycling and reuse programs, hazardous substance use reduction, and moderate risk waste collection (hazardous waste generated from households and small businesses). New initiatives focus on reuse of organic materials, reduction of building construction waste, and reduction of toxicity in products. Remedial Action Grants provide funding to local governments to cleanup property contaminated by hazardous substances to protect human health and environmental resources such as groundwater. Restored properties can then be redeveloped. Participation Grants provide funding for interest groups to inform citizens of local cleanups and for waste reduction efforts. (Authorizing Laws: 70.105D, Model Toxics Control Act; RCW 70.93, Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Model Litter Control Act; RCW 70.105, Hazardous Waste Management Act; and RCW 70.95, Solid Waste Management - Reduction and Recycling)

Treat and Dispose of Hanford's High-Level Radioactive Tank Waste

The agency protects public health and natural resources by providing regulatory oversight for the treatment and removal of highly radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This activity is focused on the design, permitting, construction, and operation of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, the Integrated Disposal Facility (a mixed, low-level waste landfill), and immobilized high-level waste storage facility.

Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in the Environment

Persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) are a particular group of chemicals that can significantly affect the health of humans, fish, and wildlife. The agency developed, and the Legislature funded in the 2001-03 Biennium, implementation of a long-term strategy designed to reduce PBTs in Washington's environment over the coming years. This strategy will coordinate agency-wide efforts, engage other key organizations and interest groups, and provide for public education and information on reducing PBTs in the environment. (Authorizing Laws: RCW 70,94, Washington Clean Air Act; RCW 90.48, Water Pollution Control Act; RCW 90.52, Pollution Disclosure Act; RCW 70.105, Hazardous Waste Management Act; RCW 70.95C, Waste Reduction; RCW 70.95, Solid Waste Management Act; RCW 70.105D, Model Toxics Control Act; and RCW 48.70, Worker and Community Right-to-Know Act)

Clean up the Most Contaminated Sites First (Upland and Aquatic)

The Department of Ecology protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated upland sites and contaminated sediments in the aquatic environment. For upland sites, resources are first focused on cleaning up contaminated sites that pose the greatest risk to public health and the environment. These include sites where contamination threatens drinking water, exists in a large quantity, is very toxic, may affect a water body, or may affect people that are living, working, or recreating near the site. Contamination may be in the soil, sediments, underground water, air, drinking water, and/or surface water. For sediment sites, this includes addressing the environmental health of aquatic sediments in source control permits, managing sediment standards and regulations, and maintaining a sediment information database. The agency also manages multi-agency sediment cleanup projects. The clean up of contaminated aquatic sediments reduces toxic contamination in food fish and protects the aquatic environment. The clean up of these sites protects public health, safeguards the environment, and promotes local economic development by making land available for new industries and other beneficial uses.

Rapidly Respond to and Clean Up Oil and Hazardous Material Spills

Oil and hazardous materials spills present a danger to human health and the environment. The agency is responsible for rapidly responding to and overseeing the clean up of oil spills, hazardous material incidents, methamphetamine drug labs, and assisting other "first response" organizations during Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents. This requires 24-hour-a-day, statewide response capability from five field offices. Other activities include coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for methamphetamine drug lab cleanup and compliance actions for violations related to oil and hazardous material spills.

Reduce Health and Environmental Threats from Smoke
Nagging regional smoke pollution plagues many areas, primarily in central and eastern Washington, and affects public health and quality of life. To address these continuing problems, the agency issues conditioned permits for agricultural, land clearing, fire training, and other outdoor burning, where required by law. It also produces daily burn forecasts; responds to and resolves complaints related to smoke; provides technical assistance to manage and prevent outdoor burning impacts; designs and delivers woodstove education programs; and through technical assistance, research, and demonstration projects, fosters development and use of practical alternatives to burning. The agency's goal by 2010 is to achieve air quality levels in eastern and central Washington that experts agree is sufficient to protect human health.

Ensure the Safe Management of Radioactive Mixed Waste at Hanford
The agency provides regulatory oversight for the safe storage, treatment, and disposal of liquid and solid dangerous and radioactive mixed wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, as well as at radioactive mixed-waste sites throughout the state. This activity regulates the management of this historic and ongoing waste stream, and ensures the retrieval, treatment, and safe disposal of high-risk transuranic and high activity wastes currently buried in shallow, unlined trenches.

Improve Community Access to Hazardous Substance and Waste Information
The agency uses automated data systems to track compliance and technical assistance visits; measure pollution prevention and compliance progress; track amounts of dangerous waste generated each year and its proper transport, treatment, and/or disposal; identify toxic chemicals released and stored by businesses; and track information on facilities that prepare pollution prevention plans and pay fees. It provides the agency, public, and local governments with accurate information about the type, location, and source of hazardous substances that affect them. In accordance with federal and state Community Right-to-Know laws, the agency also responds to public inquiries about toxic chemicals and provides a Website for this purpose.

Prevent Oil Spills from Vessels and Oil Handling Facilities
The Department of Ecology works with the regulated community and others to minimize the environmental threat of oil and chemical spills from vessels and oil handling facilities by focusing on human and organizational factors. This work is carried out through the following core activities: vessel inspections; oversight of oil transfer operations; regulating oil handling facilities; dispatching the Neah Bay Rescue Tug; and incident investigations. This involves monitoring arrivals of 2,600 large cargo and passenger vessels; conducting 1,000 vessel inspections per year; oversight of refueling operations to reduce spill frequency; review and approval of 35 oil handling facility spill prevention plans and operation manuals; implementing innovative approaches to ensure tank vessels use systems that provide "best achievable protection"; managing the rescue tug operations to control disabled tank vessels and cargo ships drifting off of our rugged coast; and investigating near-miss and actual accidents to identify new prevention strategies.

Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases
The agency currently regulates about 11,189 active tanks on 4,074 different properties, including gas stations, industries, commercial properties, and governmental entities. This includes working to ensure that tanks are installed, managed, and monitored in accordance with federal standards and in a manner that prevents releases into the environment. This is done through compliance inspections and providing technical assistance to tank owners and operators. Properly managing such tanks saves millions in cleanup costs and prevents contamination of limited drinking water and other groundwater resources.

Manage Solid Waste Safely
Solid waste facilities are managed by local health jurisdictions. Ecology provides technical assistance and oversight to local health departments to ensure that solid waste handling and disposal facilities are in compliance with environmental requirements. (Authorizing laws: RCW 70.95, Solid Waste Management Act; RCW 105D, Hazardous Waste Cleanup Model Toxics Control Act)

Improve Quality of Data Used for Environmental Decision Making

Sound environmental policy and regulatory decisions can only be made if accurate and timely data is available. To ensure the reliability and integrity of data used by the agency, staff provide guidance and training on developing quality assurance project plans, review project proposals, and consult on sampling design requirements and interpretation of results. This quality assurance function is required by the Environmental Protection Agency for entities, such as the Department of Ecology, which receive funding for work involving environmental data. In addition, agency scientists, modelers, statisticians, chemists, and other specialists interpret technical data, review grantee monitoring plans, and supply information for policy decisions, in support of agency mandates.

Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance

The agency provides grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance to local governments, state agencies, and tribes to enable them to build, upgrade, repair, or replace facilities to improve and protect water quality. This includes meeting the state's obligation to manage the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund in perpetuity. The agency also funds nonpoint-source control projects such as watershed planning, stormwater management, freshwater aquatic weed management, education, and agricultural best management practices. Grants are targeted to nonpoint-source problems and communities where needed wastewater facilities projects would be a financial hardship for taxpayers. Local governments use loans for both point and nonpoint-source water pollution prevention and correction projects. The agency coordinates grant and loan assistance with other state and federal funding agencies.

Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution

Nonpoint-source pollution (polluted runoff) is the leading cause of water pollution and poses a major health and economic threat. Types of nonpoint pollution include fecal coliform bacteria, elevated water temperature, pesticides, sediments, and nutrients. Sources of pollution include agriculture, forestry, urban and rural runoff, recreation, hydrologic modification, and loss of aquatic ecosystems. The agency addresses these problems through raising awareness, encouraging community action, providing funding, and supporting local decision makers. The agency also coordinates with other stakeholders through the Washington State Nonpoint Workgroup, the Forest Practices Technical Assistance group, and the Agricultural Technical Assistance group.

Promote Compliance with Water Laws

The agency helps ensure that water users comply with the state's water laws so that other legal water users are not impaired; water use remains sustainable over the long term; and the environment is protected for the benefit of people and nature. Activities include water metering and reporting 80 percent of water use in 16 fish critical basins, along with education, technical assistance, and strategic enforcement in egregious cases.

Increase Safe Hazardous Waste Management

Ecology provides education and technical assistance to thousands of businesses on safe hazardous waste management. Although formal enforcement work is essential to maintaining compliance with hazardous waste regulations, workshops and technical assistance visits also can help bring facilities into regulatory compliance using substantially fewer resources. Safe management of hazardous waste protects the public and the environment, and enables the state to avoid significant clean-up costs.

Manage Water Rights

The agency allocates surface and ground water to meet the many needs for water. It does this by making decisions on applications for new water rights and by making decisions on applications for changes to existing water rights to reallocate water. Water right decisions require consideration of many factors, including determining whether water is available and whether existing rights would be impaired. The agency is responsible for managing an existing water rights portfolio of over 49,000 certificates, 3,000 permits and 166,000 claims.

Prevent Unhealthy Air and Violations of Air Quality Standards

Federal law establishes minimum air standards for six air pollutants known as criteria pollutants. Violations of those standards trigger costly regulatory actions against businesses and consumers, result in economic constraints, and create the potential for severe financial sanctions against the state if problem areas are not cleaned up in a timely manner. To ensure federal standards are met, the agency continuously measures air pollution levels and trends, develops and implements area specific cleanup plans, designs and implements strategies to prevent violations, and develops and implements action plans in natural events, such as wildfires and windblown dust. A recent body of compelling research has shown that the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for some criteria pollutants are not protective of human health, and these standards are presently under federal review. In light of this new research, the agency is adjusting its focus to assure that the air in Washington is both safe to breathe and meets federal standards. The agency's goals are to have all areas that do not meet minimum federal standards, known as non-attainment areas, classified as "in attainment" by the Environmental Protection Agency by the end of the 2005, and to reduce ambient air pollutant concentrations to levels that ensure air in Washington communities is healthy to breathe and that future violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards will not occur.

Prepare for Aggressive Response to Oil and Hazardous Material Incidents

Operators of large commercial vessels and oil handling facilities are required to maintain state-approved oil spill contingency plans to ensure they can rapidly and effectively respond to major oil spills. State planning standards ensure equipment and response personnel are strategically staged on water bodies around the state for immediate deployment. Agency staff review and approve the contingency plans and ensure that plan holders and spill response contractors maintain their readiness through scheduled and unannounced drills. The agency also partners with other agencies to maintain a single contingency plan that guides how spills are managed in the Northwest. Geographic-based response plans (GRPs) are developed by staff working in consultation with other experts. The plans identify and prioritize region-specific response strategies that protect natural resources and other valuable assets during significant oil spills.

Reduce Air Pollution from Industrial and Commercial Sources

The agency issues permits to new and existing industrial and commercial facilities that emit significant levels of air pollution. Permit programs are mandated either by federal or state clean air laws and are designed to be self-supporting through fees. The agency provides technical assistance, permit application and processing guidance, interpretation of rules, pre-application assistance, and permit review. Permits are conditioned and approved to ensure all federal and state laws are met, and that air quality, the environment, and public health are protected. The agency develops and modifies industrial source regulations to incorporate federal and state law changes, simplify and streamline permit requirements, and ensure public health protection. The agency conducts compliance inspections, resolves complaints, and develops technical and policy direction on emerging industrial permit issues.

Monitor the Quality of State Waters and Measure Stream Flows Statewide

The agency has established a statewide environmental monitoring network to assess the current status of state waters, identify threatened or impaired waters, and evaluate changes/trends in water quality over time. This network includes sampling stations in rivers, streams, and marine waters (Puget Sound and coastal estuaries). The agency also measures and evaluates stream flows in salmon-critical basins and key watersheds statewide, and makes near real-time information available to the public via the agency's website.

Ensure Safe Tank Operations, Storage of Tank Wastes, & Closure of the Waste Storage Tanks at Hanford

The agency protects public health and natural resources by ensuring the safe storage and management of 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive tank waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Hanford Tank Waste Project is focused on permitting the double-shelled tank waste storage system, removing liquid wastes from the single-shelled tanks, and beginning to close portions of the tank waste storage system. In coordination with the Hanford Tank Waste Disposal Project, the tank waste will be removed and treated, leading to eventual closure of all 177 Hanford tanks by 2028.

Prepare and Respond to Drought
The agency provides services to reduce the impact of droughts and to prepare for future droughts and climate change. When droughts are declared, services include providing water through emergency transfers, water right changes, and temporary wells. The agency also provides drought related information and financial assistance and coordinates drought response efforts. Emerging information on climate change is also monitored for future water supply implications.

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance for Local Watershed Planning and Implementation
In 1998, the Watershed Planning Act established a framework for state, local, and tribal governments to collaboratively create watershed plans that address water needs, reduce water pollution, and protect fish habitat. As the first watershed plans come to completion, emphasis shifts to implementation of the water management strategies contained in the plans. The agency supports watershed planning and implementation by providing staff support, technical and financial assistance to local groups, and by adopting the county-approved plans into rules. The agency also implements strategies for water resource management, as agreed to in the locally-developed watershed plans.

Provide Technical Assistance on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review
SEPA was adopted in 1971 to ensure that state and local decision makers consider the environmental impacts of their actions. The SEPA law provides an opportunity for local citizen involvement in the environmental review process and provides developers an opportunity to identify mitigation opportunities that facilitate overall project approval and minimize development costs. The agency provides training and assistance to local governments and the public, and manages the SEPA register.

Measure Air Pollution Levels and Emissions
To make reasoned air quality management decisions, the agency needs reliable information on the amount and sources of pollution and how it moves in the air. To collect needed data, the agency uses three primary activities: air quality monitoring (assessment of trends, focused compliance, and assessment of control strategies, health effects, and environmental damage); emission inventory development (quantification of pollution released by sources of air pollution); and meteorological and dispersion modeling forecasts (the movement and concentration of air pollutants, the carrying capacity of airsheds, the interactions of pollutants, and the point of maximum impact of pollution).

Provide Technical Training, Education, and Research through Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve
The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 25 national reserves established to protect estuaries for research and education. The Padilla Bay Reserve in Skagit County conducts a broad array of public education programs, technical and professional training, coastal restoration, and scientific research and monitoring. The reserve, managed in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), includes over 11,000 acres of tidelands and uplands; the Breazeale Interpretive Center; a research laboratory; residential quarters; trails; and support facilities. The reserve also provides funding and technical support to local Marine Resource Committees as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative, and administers the Northwest Straits Marine Commission as established by Senator Murray in 1998.

Provide Water Resources Data and Information
The collection, management, and sharing of data and information is critical to modern water management. It is essential to local watershed groups, conservancy boards, businesses, local governments, nonprofit groups, the Legislature, other agencies, and the media. It supports daily agency operations, including making water allocation decisions; setting and achieving stream flows; identifying the location and characteristics of wells, dams, and water diversions; supporting compliance actions; metering; tracking progress; communicating with constituents; and serving other water resource functions.

Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Local Governments to Reduce Flood Hazards
The Department of Ecology administers the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, providing grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management planning. Staff review and approve local Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans and inspect construction of flood damage reduction projects. The Department of Ecology is also the state's coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and receives an annual Community Assistance Program grant to provide technical assistance and support to 286 communities enrolled in the NFIP. In this role, staff make regularly scheduled technical assistance visits to communities, assess local regulatory programs for compliance with state and federal requirements, and provide workshops and other outreach on flood hazard recognition and reduction. Proper flood control planning and projects protect both private and public property, as well as natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat.

Reduce the Generation of Hazardous Waste and the Use of Toxic Substances through Technical Assistanc
The state Hazardous Waste Reduction Act calls for the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the use of toxic substances and requires certain businesses to prepare plans for voluntary reduction. Staff provide assistance through innovative programs for source and waste generation reduction, including more than 275 technical assistance visits per year. In addition, the agency focuses on improvements in industries that have the highest rate of waste generation and non-compliance to help them achieve energy savings, water conservation, and reduced hazardous waste production. Reducing toxics in products and the initial generation of hazardous waste minimizes disposal costs, reduces the need for clean-up, minimizes public exposure, and saves money.

Regulate Well Construction
The agency protects consumers, well drillers, and the environment by licensing and regulating well drillers, investigating complaints, approving variances from construction standards, and providing continuing education to well drillers. The work is accomplished in partnership with delegated counties. It delivers technical assistance to homeowners, well drillers, tribes, and local governments.

Ensure Environmental Laboratories Provide Quality Data
The agency is charged with the responsibility to certify laboratories that conduct tests or submit data to the agency. As a result, Ecology developed and manages a program to accredit environmental laboratories for analyses in all typical environmental matrices, now including drinking water. The drinking water mission was transferred to Ecology under an April 2002 Memorandum of Agreement between Ecology and the Department of Health. Accreditation helps ensure that environmental laboratories have the demonstrated capability to provide accurate and defensible data. The agency's laboratory accreditation program is the primary source of lab performance monitoring for the 480 labs in the accreditation program.

Restore Public Natural Resources Damaged by Oil Spills
When an oil spill causes significant damage to publicly owned natural resources, Ecology chairs and directs a multi-state trustee committee to complete an assessment of the monetary value of the natural resources that were damaged. Once the assessment is complete, Ecology seeks fair compensation from the responsible parties. Ecology chairs the Coastal Protection Committee to ensure that the money collected is used for projects to restore the environmental damage.

Restore Watersheds by Supporting Community-Based Projects with the Washington Conservation Corps
The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 to conserve, rehabilitate, and enhance the state's natural and environmental resources, while providing educational opportunities and meaningful work experiences for young adults (ages 18-25). The WCC creates partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, and nonprofit groups to complete a variety of conservation-related projects. These include stream and riparian restoration, wetlands restoration and enhancement, soil stabilization, and other forest restoration activities, fencing, and trail work. The WCC also provides emergency response and hazard mitigation services to local communities.

Administration

The administration activity supports agency functions by providing leadership, cross-program support, and staff presence throughout the state. Administration manages the agency's long-term financial health and provides information to support sound decision-making and resource management by managers. Communication, education, and outreach tools play a major role in protecting and improving the environment. Administration staff serve as liaisons to Congress, the state Legislature, local governments, businesses, Indian tribes, and environmental and citizen groups. Administration helps managers and employees create a safe, supportive, and diverse work environment by providing comprehensive human resource services. It also oversees information management (desktop and network services, application development, and data administration) and facility and vehicle management; maintains the agency's centralized records and library resources; responds to public records requests; and provides mail services.

Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean Up their Contaminated Sites

The agency provides services to site owners or operators who initiate clean-up of their contaminated sites. Voluntary clean-ups can be conducted in a variety of ways: completely independent of the agency; independent with some agency assistance or review; or with agency oversight under a signed legal agreement (an agreed order or consent decree). They may be done through consultations, prepayment agreements, prospective purchaser agreements, and brownfields redevelopment. The voluntary clean-up program minimizes the need for public funding used for such clean-up and promotes local economic development through new industries and other beneficial uses of cleaned properties.

Provide Streamlined Project Permitting for Transportation Projects

The Department of Ecology contracts with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide dedicated personnel focused on improving and implementing the permitting and regulatory process for state transportation projects. To address traffic congestion and allow businesses to efficiently transport products in Washington, the Legislature and Governor have approved significant spending on transportation projects with the expectation of expedient project delivery. Interagency agreements with WSDOT allow the agency to permit and mitigate transportation projects through multi-agency transportation permitting teams, multi-agency programmatic approvals, watershed-based mitigation alternatives, and the assignment of dedicated organizational infrastructure at the Department of Ecology. Currently, this activity is wholly funded by interagency agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Agreements expected to total $1,655,000 for the biennium fund 8.43 FTEs. Additional agreements may be signed that would increase both FTEs and funding.

Measure Contaminants in the Environment by Performing Laboratory Analyses

The Manchester Environmental Laboratory is a full-service environmental chemistry laboratory operated jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Ecology. The laboratory provides technical, analytical, and sampling support for chemistry and microbiology for multiple programs in the agency, and supports work conducted under mandates such as the federal Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Control Act, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection Act, and Model Toxics Control Act.

Support Local Watershed Management of Water Resources

This activity involves work with other agencies, local watershed planning groups, and tribes to address water quantity issues under the Watershed Management Act. It includes providing technical support and studies for local watershed planning groups to develop and adopt local plans that can serve as the basis for sound water resources management.

Provide Regulatory Assistance for Significant Projects and Small Businesses
The Department of Ecology contracts with the Washington State Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) to provide dedicated permitting and environmental assistance services. This includes a headquarters-based One-Stop Service Center for walk-in, call-in, and 24/7 Web-based customers needing information, contacts, and assistance concerning local, state, and federal permits and approvals. It also includes regionalized Case Managers for more complex, complicated, and lengthy projects needing dedicated project management and process facilitation assistance. Currently, this activity is partly funded by an interagency agreement with the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and by funds from the agency's Administration Program. Three FTEs are funded by an agreement with OFM that is expected to total $796,000 for the biennium. Three additional FTEs are funded by the Administration Program; the cost of these FTEs is approximately $180,000 for the biennium.

Support Water Use Efficiency
The agency provides agricultural, commercial/industrial, and nonprofit water users with services that deliver water savings. These include information, planning, and technical, engineering, and financial assistance. Support also is provided for water reuse projects and to the Department of Health for municipal water conservation.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
State law requires reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases as well as efforts to prepare for and respond to climate changes that are already underway. To better understand the volume and sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, Ecology conducts a viennial emissions inventory and will adopt a rule and systems to begin mandatory greenhouse gas reporting. To help the state achieve its greenhouse gas targets, Ecology will continue engagement with national and regional partners to design a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction program and work with transportation, forestry, industry and other sectors to identify reduction strategies, benchmarks, and offsets. To help citizens, business, and local governments cope with existing and projected climate changes Ecology will work in concert with other designated agencies to develop an integrated climate change response strategy, and will provide tools and assistance to help local governments and state agencies identify and report their greenhouse gas emissions and develop strategies to reduce those emissions. Ecology will also evaluate potential impacts of sea level rise and changes in water supplies.

Reduce Toxic Chemicals in Products and Promote Safer Alternatives
Toxic chemicals in products are polluting our environment and have the potential to harm humans. Reducing toxic chemicals in products over time will lower the risks to people and the environment. To make significant progress toward achieving this goal requires several strategies; identifying chemicals of concern in consumer products and strengthening the ability to gather data on the presence of these chemicals in products and the environment; improving tools and authorities to promote safer alternatives to identified chemicals; promoting green chemistry; and, improving education, outreach, and communication. Reducing toxic chemical threats is the smartest, cheapest, and healthiest approach to protecting people and the environment.

Eliminate Waste and Promote Material Reuse
In order to eliminate waste whenever possible and use the remaining waste as resources, this activity:

* Provides technical assistance to local governments that operate recycling programs;

* Studies barriers to construction material reuse;

* Develops regulations to promote reuse of organic materials; and
* Advises state and local governments on how to promote environmentally preferred purchasing.

Consolidation
This activity reflects new tasks added through consolidation.